SKY MASTERS

JUDGE PARKER

BLONDIE

BEN BOLT

LIL ABNER

REX MORGAN

ARCHIE

JULIE JONES

POGO

RIP KIRBY

Garden Notes

Hybrids Best Cukes

By M. V. CHESNUT, FRHS

I mentioned yesterday that I didn't care too much for the flavor of hybrid corn, although I grow it because of its earliness and vigor. With cucumbers, though, I wouldn't dream of growing anything else than a hybrid variety, preferably a first-generation or F-1 hybrid.

Scientists have long known that when two different species of animals or plants are crossed, the offspring of that mating are blessed with an excess of strength and vigor. This is known as heterosis, and is found only in the first generation, the hybrid vigor declining rapidly in the subsequent generations.

Nowhere is this F-1 hybrid vigor more apparent and more beneficial than in the cucumber. Before the hybrids came along, I always grew Straight Eights, which by the standards of five years ago was a pretty terrific cuke—smooth, straight, dark green, with blunted ends and crisp, mild flesh. Trouble was, if any bug or blight turned up within a mile of the cucumber patch, Straight Eight would get it.

The hybrid cucumber I grow has all the virtues of Straight Eight, plus. It never seems to come down with disease or red spider mite, and it bears a prodigious crop of beautiful, firm cukes which can be picked young for gherkins or dills or allowed to plump up for slicing and salads. It is a bronze medal winner in the all-American trials and has been picked two years running as the best cucumber on the Central Experimental Farm in Ottawa.

And the name of this beau brummel among cucumbers? Well, it is all very confusing. Apparently, every seedsman who got his hands on the seeds of this variety has coined his own name for it.

One catalogue lists it as Early Surecrop, another as Supercrop Hybrid 5A, and still another as Surecrop Hybrid Early. All I can suggest is that you check your catalogue very carefully and (a) look for the word "crop" in the name; (b) make sure it is grouped in the first-generation hybrids, and (c) check the price. If the seeds cost twice as much as any other cucumber, you've found your man.

If you grow cucumbers especially for pickling, I'd like to get in a plug for a little fellow called Green Thumb, which, for my money, is head and shoulders better than the more commonly-grown Chicago Pickling or National Pickling.

I believe Tom Thumb is an open-pollinated type rather than a hybrid, but it has all the strength, vigor and big yields usually associated with the hybrids. It is exceptionally early, reaching the gherkin stage about 52 days after sowing the seed and the dill stage in two months; and if allowed to grow bigger, it can even be used for slicing, although it doesn't have the good looks of Straight Eight and Supercrop Hybrid.

One exceptional feature about Green Thumb is the way the little cukes retain their color. While most cucumbers fade to a rather unappetizing shade in the pickling, Green Thumb stays a deep, dark green throughout the whole processing.

The Viewing World

By John Crosby

Beatniks Shoot Up Beatniks

You want to know which way the cookie crumbles, man? Well, dig this from a press release: "'77 Sunset Strip,' a new hour-long mystery adventure series from the studios of Warner Brothers and starring Efrem Zimbalist Jr. . . . With Hollywood's fabulous strip as its focal point, the new action-packed series will present Zimbalist as a hard-hitting private detective, Stuart Bailey.

"As he moves swiftly about the country by plane, train and car in pursuit of suspects and clues, '77 Sunset Strip, will show him at work against colorful backgrounds ranging from natural scenic wonders, glamorous resorts, bustling cities, and boom towns."

* * *

Wow! That little bit from a press release tells more than I ever could in a comparable space about the show. It proves, among other things, that Warner Brothers is going to continue in television its fabulous reputation, built up in the days of the cinema, of unparalleled mediocrity, much of it against colorful backgrounds ranging from natural scenic wonders, to glamorous resorts. Warner Brothers was always strong on colorful backgrounds without much in the nature of a story in front of them.

As cops and robbers stuff goes, this one is very beat generation. "I don't read you, man," drawls a beatnik to Zimbalist in a jive joint. "I'm out of print," snarls Zimbalist—as the saxophones moan. This particular episode was about a crusading television commentator who got blinded by mobsters, which may have been the least violent incident in it. From there it got strong meat, if you read me, man.

* * *

To gain a hold over the private eye, the mob takes a reformed drug addict and forcibly puts her back on the habit in a scene which could turn the stomach of the squeamish ones among us. But, like who's got a stomach any more, man?

"I've got to have a fix," sobs the girl at one point, which may easily have been the high point in literacy. Anyhow, the good guys won out over the bad guys. It ended, as I recall, with a gunfight in a darkened warehouse. (Man, that darkened warehouse on the Warner Brothers' lot must have more bullet holes in it than the saloon at Dodge City.)

"77 Sunset Strip" has its own song, something about the place to meet the "girl and the hipster," as trumpets snarl in the background. The musical background is jazz, which is pretty good stuff.

Another of the same ilk is "New York Confidential" which boasts Lee Tracy playing—you'd never guess it unless I told you—"a crusading crime-busting newspaperman" and on the first time around Tracy ran down a guy who had shot and blinded a cop. More people getting blinded by bullets. These things run in cycles. Next week they'll kill 'em. This week they blind them.

* * *

The particular quality that makes "New York Confidential" stand out from the run-of-the-mill adventure strips is the acting. In most of these things the acting is mediocre. In this it's awful. I mean it's so bad you sit up and take notice immediately. Well, that's one way to attract attention.

On the other hand the photography is almost as bad as the acting. The darn thing has been shot in New York, which is enough to throw television clear back to Hollywood where it never left in the first place. It's Easterns like this that give Westerns a good name.

You wanna know how the cookie crumbles, well, that's how it crumbles. Beatniks shooting up other beatniks. I didn't think they had all that energy.

Hollywood Today

By Sheilah Graham

Patter of Tiny Hopes

HOLLYWOOD (NANA)—After **Ernie Borgnine** and **Katy Jurado** marry in September, they will live in Hollywood with Katy's two children by a previous marriage. "I hope Ernie and I have many, many children," the fiery Miss Jurado confided during a break in the filming of "One-Eyed Jacks," with **Marlon Brando** and **Karl Malden.**

* * *

Eddie Fisher has an April Fool's Day premiere at the Tropicana in Vegas. Last year at that time, **Jayne Mansfield** was the big attraction.

* * *

Lauren Bacall screamed blue murder when the manager of a new movie house in London, christened by Bacall, distributed 600 facsmilies of the worst photograph she ever had taken. It was small comfort when the recipients told her, "You're much prettier than your picture."

* * *

Rossano Brazzi's new house in Rome is the cat's pajamas, in any language. Under construction for five years, the mansion features a fully-equipped theatre and a complete stereophonic system. It's easy to foretell what is going to happen: Brazzi will be making pictures all over the world—everywhere, that is, except Rome. It never fails.

* * *

Elizabeth Taylor shed six pounds. And that's good. A slender Liz looks too pretty to let the poundage collect. She will take her three children to England and probably stay at the Dorchester (where she and **Mike Todd** lived such hectic days) while filming her movie there.

* * *

I'm glad that **Arlene Dahl** is returning to her career with the full blessing of husband **Fernando Lamas.** "I've loved every minute of my two years at home, looking after Fernando and our son, but I'm in the mood to work again," says Arlene.

* * *

"T is for Tumbleweed," in which **Anne Lockhart,** June's five-year-old, made her screen debut, is up for an academy award in the documentary class. Anne is the first one in three generations of acting Lockharts to have a movie considered for an Oscar.

* * *

Maurice Chevalier has been invited by the summer theatre group of Paris to present "Gigi" on the stage of the theatre named in his honor. And if plans materialize for "Gigi," Chevalier would direct as well as star in the play.

Winning Contract

By SCHENCKEN AND FREY

Vul: Both

NORTH
♠ 9 7 5 4
♡ 6
◇ A K J 6 4 3 2
♣ 8

WEST
♠ —
♡ 9 8 5 3
◇ Q 10 9 7
♣ Q 10 7 5 3

EAST (D)
♠ A J 10 8 3 2
♡ A Q 10 7 2
◇ —
♣ 9 4

SOUTH
♠ K Q 6
♡ K J 4
◇ 8 5
♣ A K J 6 2

The bidding:

East	South	West	North
1 ♠	1 N.T.	Pass	3 ◇
4 ♡	Dbl.	Pass	4 N.T.
All Pass			

Opening lead: ♡ 3

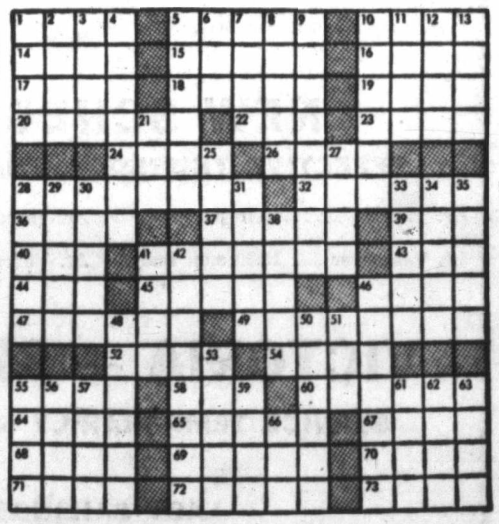
South ignored his diamond weakness to give partner the best picture of his strength in the single bid. One no-trump—as an overcall—shows the same power as an opening no-trump.

Marshall Miles, in his excellent book, "How to Win at Duplicate Bridge," features many fascinating hands. Special emphasis is placed upon declarer making the correct deductions from the auction, which, in today's hand, seems to mark East with at least 11 cards in the majors to justify his vulnerable bids. South, who can count his potential winners early, realizes that the diamond suit must be capitalized to secure ten tricks, as West must have no fewer than five clubs.

East wins the first trick with the heart ace, and returns a small heart, won by South's jack. Declarer leads a diamond and must play low from the board. If East wins, he can cash his spade ace, but declarer can claim the rest. When East shows out, the diamond finesse on the next round brings home six tricks in the suit. If, however, South calls for the diamond jack from dummy, he will restrict himself to three diamonds, two clubs, two spades and two hearts, and will be set one trick. While the play of the low diamond might conceivably lose a trick, it automatically insures the contract.

Released by The Associated Newspapers

The Daily Cross-Word Puzzle . . .



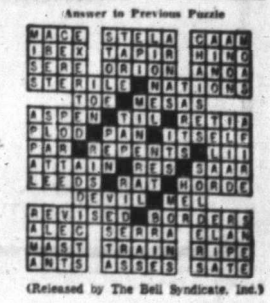
ACROSS

1. Tranquil.
5. Responded.
10. Girl's toy.
14. Opposed to sweather.
15. Home of famous witch.
16. ... in the Bacchanals.
17. Novel by Zola.
18. French river.
19. Withered.
20. Inclinations.
22. Beverage.
23. Angers.
24. Eating regimen.
26. Asterisk.
28. Was set back.
32. S. American creeping plant.
36. Sandarac tree.
37. Showers.
39. Entire.
40. Wire measure.
41. Small hand pump for injecting liquids.
43. 101 (Rom. num.).
44. S. American wood sorrel.
45. Smallest portion.
46. City of France.
47. Second top money winner in race-horses.
49. Lasting through 365 days.
52. Makes mistake.
54. Ostrich-like bird.
55. God of love.
58. Part of face.
60. Circles.
64. David ...rfield's wife.
65. To harden.
67. Metal container.
68. Russian lake.
69. River of Spain.
70. Italian city.
71. To sew.
72. Girl's name.
73. Tall marsh grass.

DOWN

1. Jargon.
2. Winged.
3. The smooth breathing.
4. Wander.
5. Meddles.
6. Compass point.
7. Mine entrance.
8. Ninth day before the Ides.
9. Caring for medically.
10. To want.
11. Above.
12. Dregs.
21. Underworld god.
25. ....firma.
27. Part of a church.
28. ...Navarro, former screen star.
29. Genus of beans.
30. One ...wrongfully condemned.
31. Flower.
33. The chocolate tree.
34. Foreigner.
35. Adhere.
38. To bury.
41. Calumniate.
42. Animal one year old.
46. Bell tongue.
49. Announce.
50. Alaskan Indian.
51. The turmeric.
53. Peninsula between Mediterranean and Red Sea.
55. First man.
56. In addition.
57. Seaport in Algiers.
59. Haul.
61. Alleviate.
62. Ceremony.
63. Winter vehicle.
66. Length measure.

Answer to Previous Puzzle



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